GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1354
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
PRODUCTION OF GROUNDNUT COCONUT AND SESAME IN GUJARAT .
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of groundnut, coconut and sesame during the last three years in Gujarat;

(b) the steps being taken to boost their production;

(c) whether the above crops are being purchased at a lower rate than the price fixed by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to safeguard the interest of the farmers ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): The production of groundnut and sesamum during the last three years in Gujarat is as follows:-

(Thousands tonnes)

Crops	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
Groundnut	781.0	2577.8	2615.9
Sesamum	87.0	136.9	177.0

Advance estimates as on 26.09.2000.

Coconut in the State of Gujarat is not grown to any appreciable extent hence information on production is not maintained.
(b): To increase the production and productivity of various Oilseeds, the Government is implementing Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP).This programme is being implemented in 23 States covering 381 districts of the country. The major components of the programme are as follows:-
i) Production and purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation seeds, production and distribution of certified seeds, distribution of seed minikits.
ii) Frontline, block and IPM demonstrations.
iii) Distribution of sprinkler sets.
iv) Distribution of Improved farm implements and plant protection equipments.
v) Distribution of rhizobium cultures, nutrients and micro-nutrients.
vi) Seed storage, threshing floors and irrigation at Government farms.
vii) Training of farmers.
(c) to (e): To ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce, the Government announces Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for major agricultural commodities such as groundnut, sesasum and copra. The Government decides on the MSP after taking into consideration the recommendations of the Commission for the Agricultural Cost and Prices, views of the State Governments and concerned Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors which in the opinion of the Government are important for fixing the MSP. In case prices touch the MSP level, the nodal agency is required to immediately intervene and start procuring so as to stabilize prices. Procurement of FAQ (Fair Average Quality) of agriculture commodities by the Government nodal agencies is always undertaken at MSP and not at lower prices.
The prices of groundnut in shell and sesamum in the market during 2000-01 are ruling above MSP. However, the prices of copra in copra growing States such as Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andaman Nicobar Islands and Lakshdweep are ruling below the MSP level. To safeguard the interests of copra growers, NAFED intervened in the market. As on 14.11.2000, NAFED purchased 1.37 lakh tonnes of Milling Copra under PSS (Price Support Scheme).